

Meet Bob MacKinnon

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Bob MacKinnon had a positive impact on amateur hockey in Oakville, provincially, and nationally for almost four decades.

He was born in Maxville, Ontario, in 1938 and moved with the family to Oakville at a young age.

In his youth he played minor hockey, but claimed he was not a 'focused athlete', and quit playing hockey at age 14.

But hockey was in his blood, and he became involved again as a founder of the Oakville Blades junior team in 1966.

After a few years, he then embarked on an administrative career in hockey.

He was elected to the Board of Directors of the Ontario Hockey Association in 1974, and served as Chairman from 1984 to 1986.

He was awarded the highest honour of the O.H.A., the Gold Stick Award, in 1989.

He served as Chair of the Hockey Development Centre for Ontario and was elected as a Canadian Hockey Association Officer in 1991.

He was Chairman of the C.H.A. from 1997 to 1999, and was Canada's highest ranking hockey official at the 1998 Winter Olympics in Nagano, Japan.

Murray Costello of the International Ice Hockey Foundation spoke of Bob MacKinnon as, "One of the most even tempered men, a bear of a man, and an absolute delight to work with."

At the national level of hockey in Canada, Bob MacKinnon is credited with a positive change of direction by setting up better communications between the C.H.A. and all its branches.

Another C.H.A. president, Bob Nicholson, said "Bob MacKinnon tried to take care of conflicts amicably. He has left many footprints with positive results.

"He was truly admired, not only in Oakville and Ontario, but from coast to coast.

"He brought Hockey Canada and the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association together as one body and made it work in such a positive way."

Bob MacKinnon died April 4, 2002 at the age of 64. He is survived by his daughter Marni, two sons, Rob and Michael, and sister, Karen, of Oakville.



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